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Letter dated 28 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Writing on behalf of the 23 members of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, comprising the Kingdom of Bahrain, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Belarus, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Republic of Ecuador, Eritrea, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of India, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nicaragua, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Republic of the Philippines, the State of Qatar, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Singapore, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, I have the honour to transmit the statement of the members of the Group of Friends on the occasion of World Day against Trafficking in Persons, commemorated on 30 July (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 106.

(*Signed*) Andrei **Dapkiunas**

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Annex to the letter dated 28 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking on the World Day against Trafficking in Persons

New York, 30 July 2017

On the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, we, the Members of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, comprising the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Belarus, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Republic of Ecuador, Eritrea, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of India, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nicaragua, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Republic of the Philippines, the State of Qatar, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Singapore, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela,

Recognise that trafficking in persons is a heinous crime and remains one of the greatest challenges to the international development and human dignity that needs collective concerted and comprehensive international response to effectively combat it;

Reaffirm our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, mindful of its integrated and indivisible nature and acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda includes commitments that relate to fighting all forms of trafficking in persons;

Stress the importance of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, adopted on July 30, 2010, by the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly, as a comprehensive document aimed at promoting better coordination of anti-trafficking efforts, where countries of origin, demand and transit, along with international organisations, private sector and civil society, find a practical way of working together as one;

Recall that the United Nations proclaimed July 30, the day of the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons and invite all Member States, relevant United Nations agencies, as well as civil society, to observe the World Day;

Underline the importance of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (September 27-28, 2017, New York) and invite all partners to contribute to its success;

Stress the crucial role of honest and sincere partnership among all stakeholders in fighting human trafficking and reiterate our readiness to work closely together to pursue all anti-trafficking initiatives on a more coordinated and engaging basis.